



Delta Counties Coalition

Contra Costa County · Sacramento County · San Joaquin County · Solano County · Yolo County
"Working together on water and Delta issues"

August 26, 2010

Delta Stewardship Council Members
650 Capitol Mall, Fifth Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Delta Interim Plan

Dear Delta Stewardship Council Members:

The five counties which ring the Delta – Contra Costa, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano and Yolo – comprise the Delta Counties Coalition (DCC). Collectively, we wish to express our concerns regarding the process and timeline for the drafting of the Interim Plan.

We have serious concerns with the haste of the process that the Delta Stewardship Council (DSC) has undertaken in developing the draft Interim Plan. Of particular concern is that DSC staff has not been given the time needed to reasonably consider the comments the DCC (or any other stakeholder) has provided regarding the first, second, and final draft interim plan. The DSC requested comments on the second draft by August 3rd and the Delta Counties Coalition met with DSC staff on August 5th to discuss written comments on the second draft. DSC staff referred to a final draft of the Plan during this meeting. The final draft was then released on August 16th, with a turnaround time of 6 days for additional comments. There is simply no possible way for stakeholder comments to have been adequately incorporated into the final draft. The draft interim plan consists of over 100 pages, and if adopted as policy, will have a tremendous impact on residents of the Delta – residents we have been elected to represent.

This rush to finalize the document will only serve to exclude from consideration concerns raised by stakeholders in previous drafts, defying the credibility of the DSC's public review process. Furthermore, this hasty process could result in fragmented decision making, project delay, and/or unnecessary administrative burdens on local agencies. The staff report is silent on the comments that have been incorporated in the Interim Plan, and more importantly, the comments that have been rejected and why. For a Plan of this importance, a truly deliberative process that includes responses to all of the comments raised is critical.

We urge the DSC to be more deliberate and take the time to carefully and fully consider the comments of stakeholders in this process.

Sincerely,



Mary Nejedly Piepho
Supervisor, Contra Costa County



Michael J. Reagan
Supervisor, Solano County



Don Nottoli
Supervisor, Sacramento County



Mike McGowan
Supervisor, Yolo County



Larry Ruhstaller
Supervisor, San Joaquin County

CC: Delta Counties Coalition Legislative Delegation
California Resources Agency Secretary Snow
Members, Delta Protection Commission
Members, Delta Conservancy